

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit, arranged to input a rendering command;

a discriminator, arranged to discriminate a type of object to be rendered on the basis of the rendering command inputted by said input unit;

a first determiner, arranged to determine whether or not the object is to be subjected to a correction process, in accordance with the result discriminated by said discriminator; and

a second determiner, arranged to determine whether ~~or not~~ the object which is determined to be subjected to the correction process by said first determiner is an object segmented from an image or not by examining a rendering region of the object and neighboring regions thereof.

Claim 2 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a decision unit, arranged to decide a correction characteristic of the correction process on the basis of a characteristic of the object when it is determined by said second determiner that the object is an object segmented from an image.

Claim 3 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a correction unit, arranged to execute an identical correction process for a plurality of segmented objects that form the image on the basis of the correction characteristic.

Claim 4 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second determiner determines whether the object is an object segmented from an image or not on the basis of a rendering position of the object indicated by the rendering command.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second determiner has a memory for recording identification information indicating the presence of candidates of the segmented object in correspondence with the [[a]] rendering region of the object and the neighboring regions thereof.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said second determiner determines that the segmented object is present when the identification information which neighbors or overlaps the rendering region of the object indicated by the rendering command to be processed is present.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decision unit comprises an extractor arranged to extract a color or luminance distribution of the object which is determined by said first determiner to be subjected to the correction process.

Claim 9 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said decision unit decides the correction characteristic by combining pieces of the color or luminance distribution information extracted from a plurality of segmented objects that form the image.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An image processing method comprising the steps of[[;]]:

inputting a rendering command;

discriminating a type of object to be rendered on the basis of the rendering command;

determining whether or not the object is to be subjected to a correction process, in accordance with the ~~determination~~ discrimination result in said discriminating step; and

determining whether the object which is determined to be subjected to the correction process in said first determining step is an ~~objected~~ object segmented from an image or not by examining a rendering region of the object and neighboring regions thereof.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, further comprising [[a]] the step of deciding a correction characteristic of the correction process on the basis of a characteristic of the object when it is determined in said second determining step that the object is an object segmented from an image.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of executing an identical correction process for a plurality of segmented objects that form the image on the basis of the correction characteristic.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method according to claim 10, wherein said second determining step includes determining whether the object is an object segmented from an image or not on the basis of a rendering position of the object indicated by the rendering command.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method according to claim 13, further comprising [[a]] the step of storing identification information indicating the presence of candidates of the segmented object in a memory in correspondence with the [[a]] rendering region of the object and the neighboring regions thereof.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method according to claim 14, wherein said second determining step includes determining that the segmented object is present when the

identification information which neighbors or overlaps the rendering region of the object indicated by the rendering command to be processed is present.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method according to claim 11, wherein said deciding step includes determining the correction characteristic on the basis of a color or luminance distribution of the object which is determined to be subjected to the correction process.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method according to claim 17, wherein the correction characteristic of a plurality of segmented objects that form the image is decided by combining pieces of the color or luminance distribution information extracted from those segmented objects.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having a computer program code, for an image processing method, comprising process procedure codes for:

inputting a rendering command;

discriminating a type of object to be rendered on the basis of the

rendering command;

determining whether or not the object is to be subjected to a correction process, in accordance with the [determination] discrimination result in said discriminating step; and

determining whether the object which is determined to be subjected to the correction process in said first determining step is an object segmented from an image or not by examining a rendering region of the object and neighboring regions thereof.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A product according to claim 19, further comprising process procedure code for deciding a correction characteristic of the correction process on the basis of a characteristic of the object when it is determined in said second determining step that the object is an object segmented from an image.